

TALESPINNER



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Courtest photo, JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs

Getting Awkward:

Airman urges reaching out to others

Staff Sgt. Marissa Tucker
JBSA- Lackland Public Affairs

Out of the more than 20,000 people in the Joint Base San Antonio community, where do I fit in?

It's a question I've asked myself several times since I arrived here, and while I know my primary job, I like to think I serve another purpose. It causes me discomfort on an everyday basis and sometimes I feel like I'm making a fool out of myself, but I do it anyway.

I speak to everyone I encounter, every day. It gets

pretty awkward sometimes, because even though my job requires me to speak to strangers frequently, I'm still a bit of an introvert. Sometimes it's easy and the person responds, some people just walk past and sometimes I get strange looks.

So why do I keep doing it?

Because in 2012, at least 349 service members committed suicide.

Maybe I've never met any of them and maybe there was nothing anybody could do, but we just don't know who is next. My small part in the battle against suicide is to simply

acknowledge that people exist and let them know I'm glad I saw them that day.

It might go unnoticed by many, but maybe I've come across someone looking for a reason or a sign not to hurt him- or her-self or to know someone cares. I might never know if it works, but I never want to know what happened when they needed it and no one was there.

It's a grim thought, but it's a fact that the number of suicides in the military is increasing each year. Chances are there's going to be more before 2014.

Although we have numerous resources at our disposal such as resiliency programs, free and confidential access to mental health professionals, chaplains and many other avenues to help service members cope with suicidal thoughts, I think one small thing we can all do is reach out to those around us, even the ones that seem happy all the time.

No online or mass training can beat one-on-one interaction. While these tools can prepare us to notice the signs of suicidal behaviors, what helps us apply these skills is getting to know the people around us. How can we know if someone is exhibiting the signs if we

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Advancement is the key to personal and professional satisfaction

By Chief Master Sgt. Joel K. Berry
Command Chief Master Sergeant,
Medical Education and Training Campus

Let me first say CONGRATULATIONS to our newest Joint Base San Antonio promotees! Whether you are an officer, enlisted, or civilian member, it seems as though across our joint-service environment the summer season has been good to all of us.

"Promotion" is a good word, and when we think of it, another closely related word we can also think about is "Advancement."

Advancement can come in many different forms and instances and can be defined differently by each individual. The perspective I want each of us to consider is the advancement within and among JBSA. Advancement is the result of a maturation process, only achieved via personal and professional focus.

Personal advancement should be front-burner initiative for all of us. This is a two-pillar process. The first pillar is the individual itself. Whether it is planning, structuring or setting personal goals, an individual should have the mental toughness and drive to "want" the advancement.

Next, the individual must validate his or her efforts with a stern self inspection process that can show the person the real fruits of those efforts. In doing so, the person can then evaluate true strengths and weaknesses.

As the individual evaluates his efforts, part of that criteria must include an internal look at own professionalism, tactfulness, and a positive attitude. These are also key attributes in achieving and sustaining future advancement.

The second pillar to personal advancement is super-

visory leadership. Supervisors play a key role in the personal advancement of their people. Simply, we must take care of our people.

If you're a supervisor, do you know your personnel's stories? Knowing the story of an individual is critical to the understanding of what drives and motivates individuals to go above and beyond.

Personal advancement can come in many forms of success. This can range from new instructors honing their qualifications early and never being on the non-instructional-duties list, to potential annual awards for our work force. Are you or your people ready for personal advancement?

Let us now consider professional advancement. Professional and personal advancement are related. But professional advancement relates deeper into the core of our professions or occupations. I'm asking each of you

to take a minute and reflect.

Ask yourself, when was the last time I became professionally smarter about something? This question refers to your ability learn, and it can come in many facets.

A wise man once told me that if you take 15 minutes to peruse a newspaper every day, you'd know enough about current events to have the ability to talk with anyone about almost anything. I would say, you've just have become smarter in just 15 minutes! Imagine taking those 15 minutes and reading about your profession and or occupation? Fifteen minutes do not seem like much time, right?

Becoming professionally advanced may be as easy as understanding how to take ad-



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Deadline for submissions
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to publication.

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News in Brief

Compiled by Mike Joseph, JBSA-Lackland Public Affairs

MONDAY

FREEDOM CHAPEL WOMEN'S SOCIAL

Freedom Chapel will host a social for women in the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland community on Monday, 6-8 p.m., to detail upcoming Bible studies and events. Call Freedom Chapel at 671-4208.

SNCO PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT

A mandatory professional enhancement seminar for all master sergeant-selects begins Monday and continues through Aug. 9.

The seminar is designed to provide newly-selected master sergeants with an in-depth view of their increased supervisory, leadership and managerial responsibilities. It also provides assistance in making the transition to senior NCO status more effective.

For additional information, contact Master Sgts. Tracette Abney at 671-1575, Terri Harmon at 652-2525, Shokia Turner at 977-2040 or Alan Weary at 292-4308.

AUG. 9

SENIOR NCO INDUCTION CEREMONY

The Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland senior NCO medallion and induction ceremony is Aug. 9 at the Gateway Club.

The medallion ceremony begins at 5:30 p.m. followed by a social at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m.

For more details, contact Master Sgt. Daniel Henry at 977-5673 or Staff Sgt. Tanisha White at 977-2524.

INFORMATIONAL

CAC/ID CARDS APPOINTMENTS

Appointment times at the main DEERS ID Card/Common Access Card issuance facilities at Joint Base San Antonio are about three weeks out due to high volume. Emergency walk-in wait times can range between one and three hours. All military members, retirees, dependents, DOD civilians and contractors needing new or updated CAC/ID cards are encouraged to schedule appointments. CAC cardholders who receive email notification that their card is within 60 days of expiration need to make an appointment immediately. Appointments are scheduled in 20-minute intervals between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Customers can schedule appointments at <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil>. For more details, call 671-4178.

JBSA and 502nd ABW commander hosts town hall meetings

By Airman 1st Class Lincoln Korver and Staff Sgt. Marissa Tucker
JBSA Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, Joint Base San Antonio and 502nd Air Base Wing commander, hosted three town hall meetings July 17, July 18 and July 24 at JBSA-Lackland, JBSA-Randolph and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, respectively, where he gave a personal introduction and discussed sequestration and the impact of fiscal constraints with location residents.

Though the challenges JBSA faces are prominent, the hopeful general is far from discouraged when it comes to working with his team to develop a solution.

"We can no longer do things how we did them in the past," LaBrutta said. "Some people say this is a 'new normal,' but I disagree. Sequestration and furloughs are not normal – this is a new reality."

Quick and uncomfortable decisions need to be made, he said.

"When we became Joint Base San Antonio in 2010, we were given a temporary budget protection, which allowed certain things to happen without our budget being affected," LaBrutta said.

"When the protection was lifted in 2013, Joint Base San Antonio became just like every other installation in the Air Force, including the way our budget is treated."

When sequestration took effect, Air Education and Training Command officials modified the budgets of AETC installations, including JBSA.

"This modification decreased Joint Base San Antonio's 2012 budget from \$285 million to \$186 million for 2013," LaBrutta said. "Because of this, we had to make very difficult, yet necessary decisions on what we offer and what we need to adjust."



Courtest photo, JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, Joint Base San Antonio and 502nd Air Base Wing commander speaks to the JBSA community at town hall meetings at JBSA-Lackland, JBSA-Randolph and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Despite a nearly \$100 million reduction, LaBrutta said it isn't going to stop there.

"We don't have a firm number yet, but as you know, sequestration doesn't seem to be going away any time soon," he said. "As a result of that, our budget is going to be further reduced with a projected budget deduction of \$40 million for fiscal year 2014."

JBSA residents can also expect to see a difference in several base services, as civil engineering funds, the largest part of the JBSA budget controlling services such as facilities cleaning and lawn care will be cut substantially.

Community members were encouraged to take an active role in the upkeep of JBSA, by policing themselves and each other to help ease the strain of the sequester and maintaining a foundation of togetherness through mutual cooperation, said Maj. Gen. Perry Wiggins, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) deputy commanding general for operations at the July 24 meeting.

"No matter what happens with sequestration, this is our house, and we have a responsibility to take care of it, and that goes for family members, service members and civilians," Wiggins said, as he praised members of the neighborhood watch program for stepping up to help the community.

LaBrutta said working with the functional managers at each location is going to be the key in making important decisions for fiscal year 2014.

"I'm a firm believer each one of our locations is different," he said. "When it comes time to make decisions, we need to remember each location has different populations, demands and missions."

While the 502nd ABW must make critical and seemingly harsh cuts, LaBrutta vowed to evaluate the impact of his decisions and try to decrease the strain where possible. A few examples include adjusting the hours at the child development center and opening previously closed pools and fitness centers to decrease overcrowding.

While he cannot ensure what the future holds for other base functions, core mission requirements are the top priority for JBSA.

"We are going to look at some of the things we do that aren't part of our core missions and make adjustments from there," LaBrutta said.

Process improvement is going to be a step held at high importance for the joint base, he said.

On a lighter note, LaBrutta and members of JBSA leadership discussed ways they are trying to lighten the burden on both civilian and military members affected by the furlough. At all JBSA locations, force support facilities are offering extensive discounts to civilian employees.

Also, a Freedom center, which was approved several years ago and will be built with funds allocated from a prior fiscal year, is set for construction at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston in early 2014. This facility, designed to resemble Freedom crossing at Fort Bliss Army Post in El Paso, will feature a ten-screen first-run movie theater, open-air shopping complex and much more.

"There are a lot of challenges ahead," LaBrutta said. "I know it's going to be different, but I'm an optimist. We may have to do less, but we will not do it less well."



**SEAT BELTS SAVE LIVES!
BUCKLE UP AND WEAR YOURS!**

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don't know anything about them?

It's impossible to meet everyone, but if we all took an active role getting to know the people in our own workplaces and mini-communities throughout JBSA, imagine how many people we could reach? What if they need just one person to ask how they are doing that day? Wouldn't it be worth it to get a little awkward?

It's not enough to go about your day worrying only about yourself as if 349 of our sisters and brothers-in-arms didn't die at their own hands last year. As if more than 100 haven't died the

same way this year. The stats tell us there are going to be more. What are we going to do to prevent it?

One situation I'll always keep in mind is about an Airman who worked in the dining facility at my first base. His demeanor was always cheerful and fun and people seemed to love being around him. The last thing I remember about him is asking if he wanted to buy gifts as part of a Valentine's Day fundraiser. Being the kind guy he was, he bought ten, one for each of the females in his flight.

A few weeks later as we received media calls and que-

ries about this Airman after he committed suicide, I began hearing the backstory about his struggles. He wore a smile, but he had struggles in his career, which most people did not know about and that ultimately led to his decision to end his life. At the memorial, his close friends, still in a state of confusion, spoke about their friend who seemed to love life- the guy most of us assumed was happy and well adjusted.

So if you have the chance, ask someone how they are doing and stick around for the answer. Make it a little awkward if you have to. It might be the only sign they get that day that someone cares.

KEY from Page 2

vantage of your time to become professionally competent. And in doing so, you'll become even more able to look at your operations and streamline, revamp, and innovate.

It's very easy to become complacent by stating one does not have the time to learn about this or that. The truth is that we can

never stop learning. And lack of time is certainly no excuse. Never stop seeking professional advancement.

Advancement is the key to personal and professional satisfaction. All of us must "want the ability to advance." Once we have adjusted our attitude to do just that, then we can work on a plan to the road of advancement success.

Advancement does not come without extensive amount of time and energy. At times it can literally consume all of our time, and at other times, one just has to dedicate just a few minutes a day. In the end, personal and professional advancement are great things. Being committed to it, and seeking it, will make you better and will make your organization even much better!

BMT HONORS

Congratulations to the following 65 Airmen for being selected as honor graduates among the 658 Air Force basic military trainees who graduated today:

320th Training Squadron

–Flight 483

Andrew Cason
Peyton Easton
Joseph Ficken
Joshua Gibson
Trevor Sellers
Hernan Soto

–Flight 484

Terran Alexander
Keelan Barger
Chelsi Keaton
Deana Mclean
Shauna McMurray
Sarah Pulscher

–Flight 493

Tyler Barrett
Cornelius Hayes II
Allan Leiser
Zachary Milo
Jonathan North

Bryan Pfeifer
Eric Smith
Clayton Welch

–Flight 494

Matthew Forsyth
Taylor Grin
Bo Lawson
Mario Pozo
Kevin Santos
Robert Tennille

321st Training Squadron

–Flight 486

Dieondre Jones
John Lisek
Ibnsaud Manzour
Anthony Delaherran
Manuel Gaytan
Titus Lehman
Vincent Naimo

322nd Training Squadron

–Flight 495

Talon Atwell
Jeremy Davis
Norberto Gonzalez
Jeffery Herrington
Payton Metts
William Taitingfong Jr

Kenneth Wingard

–Flight 496

Erin Hinckley
Lisa Maxwell
Tynisha Spencer

323rd Training Squadron

–Flight 489

Christopher Anderson
Melvin Echeverria
Brandon Mauro

–Flight 490

Anastasia Blas
Elizabeth Lohrmann
Ciara Nash
Drew Rozhon

326th Training Squadron

–Flight 487

Christopher Maynard
Logan Means

–Flight 488

Zachary Becker
Ryan J. Clark

–Flight 491

Kyle Ahles

Joseph Bowen
Zebulun Emmons
Justin Hruby
Alexander Roberts
Wyatt Smith

–Flight 492

Jeffrey Ball
Beau Brennan
Nathan Cvetan
Taylor Jones
Jalen Rogers

Top BMT Airman

Justin Hruby
326th TRS, Flight 491

Most Physically Fit

–Male Airmen

Graeme Gill
323rd TRS, Flight 489
Titus Lehman
321st TRS, Flight 486
Christopher Mccawley
320th TRS, Flight 483
Cameron Bonner
323rd TRS, Flight 489

–Female Airmen

Shauna McMurray
320th TRS, Flight 484

Hunter Radcliff
320th TRS, Flight 484
Terran Alexander
320th TRS, Flight 484
Bryanna Palmer
322nd TRS, Flight 496
–Male Flights
326th TRS, Flight 491
320th TRS, Flight 483
321st TRS, Flight 486
–Female Flights
320th TRS, Flight 484
322nd TRS, Flight 496
323rd TRS, Flight 490

Top Academic Flights

320th TRS, Flight 493
321st TRS, Flight 495
326th TRS, Flight 491
321st TRS, Flight 485
320th TRS, Flight 483
326th TRS, Flight 492
321st TRS, Flight 486
323rd TRS, Flight 490
323rd TRS, Flight 489
320th TRS, Flight 494
326th TRS, Flight 488
320th TRS, Flight 484
322nd TRS, Flight 496
326th TRS, Flight 487

Summer Safety program highlights basketball injuries

By Alex Salinas
JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs

While it may take years of practice, thousands of free throws and several pairs of sneakers to become a true “Basketball Jones,” it doesn’t take much to get hurt on the hardwood if not careful.

Since May 10, several Class-C injuries labeled “sports recreation and individual fitness” have been reported in Air Education and Training Command, resulting in lost work days, Staff Sgt. Gary Lund, 502nd Air Base Wing ground safety technician at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, said.

Basketball accounts for many of these inju-

ries Air Force-wide because it can be played indoors and “people get injured not only during the summer, but year-round,” Lund said.

“Basketball Jones,” a weekly topic for the 2013 Critical Days of Summer campaign, informs Airmen about the basics of basketball safety.

The most common hoops injuries include ankle sprains, finger jams and knee pops from collisions, slippery floors and aggressive playing, Lund said.

“Calling basketball a ‘noncontact sport’ is a misnomer,” Rikk Prado, 902nd Force Support Squadron Rambler Fitness Center sports manager, said. “There are numerous times when

bodies are flying around at top speed. It is particularly dangerous underneath the basket where ‘big men’ do everything in their ability to get a loose ball.”

Competing against people with similar skill levels can reduce incidental contact.

“Court awareness is the No. 1 key to avoiding injury,” Prado said. “The ability to see things around you and anticipate what could happen next gives you an advantage to staying healthy longer.

“Play within the speed you can keep up with,” he added. “Some people will say in order to get better, you have to play against better competition, but before you

do that, practice to get stronger and faster.”

Before the first dribble, players can safeguard their health by performing a few safety measures.

“Stretch for at least 35 to 40 seconds, do some lunges to warm up the legs and keep the environment safe,” Lund said.

Maintaining a safe environment entails checking for dusty or slippery spots, loose floorboard nails and ensuring no one feels threatened by any players before a game, Lund said.

Wearing the right gear such as comfortable basketball shoes, ankle wraps and mouth guards are must-haves when taking the sport

seriously, Prado said.

Protective gear such as knee braces is essential for players who have preexisting medical conditions, Lund added.

If tempers flare during a heated contest, a good attitude can prevent physical altercations.

“Keep calm, accept the misgivings of others and I guarantee less flying elbows and pushing or shoving will happen,” Prado said.

Above all, proper hydration – drinking a bottle of water before and after a game should suffice – and bringing enough water for extended periods of play will keep the body running at maximum speed, Lund said.



Photo by Rich McFadden
Gage Belyeu shoots during a basketball game at the Rambler Fitness Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, July 29. During the Air Force’s 2013 Critical Days of Summer campaign, safety officials seek to inform Airmen of basic basketball safety through its weekly campaign topic called “Basketball Jones.”

DOD Guidance on Federal Benefits for Same-Sex Spouses



The Defense Civilian Personnel Advisory Service (DCPAS) has issued guidance, to include an "Employee Handout" which addresses changes in Federal benefits coverage of same-sex spouses due to the recent ruling on the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

To view the DCAPS guidance via myPers go to:

https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil/app/answers/detail/a_id/25427/p/1%2C2

Employees married prior to 26 June 2013 have until 26 August 2013 to enroll eligible family members in these program areas. Employees married after 26 June 2013 will have 60 days from the date of marriage to enroll. Benefits that may be extended to same-sex spouses and eligible family members include health insurance, life insurance, dental and vision insurance, long-term care insurance, survivor annuities, and reimbursement of medical expenses if the employee is enrolled in a flexible spending account.

Currently the Employee Benefits Information System (EBIS) is not capable of processing same-sex FEHB enrollments. Air Force employees must contact the Total Force Service Center by phone at 1-800-525-0102, select option 2. More information can be found on myPers, https://mypers.af.mil/app/answers/detail/a_id/12808

Life insurance changes are made through EBIS, <https://w20.afpc.randolph.af.mil/AFPCSECURENET20/CheckPortal.aspx>

Additional information on dental and vision insurance, long-term care insurance and flexible spending accounts can all be found on the myPers Benefits and Entitlements website, <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil/app/categories/p/1%2C2/c/89>

Any other questions and concerns about federal employee benefits can be directed to the Benefits and Entitlements Service Team at 1-800-525-0102.

CENTER STAGE

Silver Star recipients Villegas, Young have special connection



Photo by Staff Sgt. Vernon Young Jr.

Lt. Gen. Eric E. Fiel, commander, Air Force Special Operations Command, congratulates Tech. Sgt. Ismael Villegas, a special operations liaison to the 369th Recruiting Group, and Staff Sgt. Dale Young, 342nd Training Squadron combat control instructor, after being awarded Silver Stars July 22 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Villegas and Young were awarded Silver Stars for their combat actions against enemy forces in Afghanistan.

By Mike Joseph
JBSA-Lackland Public Affairs

The two most recent Air Force Silver Star recipients both had one thought in mind as they sat side-by-side on the stage of Forbes Hall at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland during their award ceremony July 22.

Both Tech. Sgt. Ismael Villegas and Staff Sgt. Dale Young couldn't stop thinking about the immense pride they felt for their fellow Air Force Special Operations combat control teammate sitting an arm's length away.

"I was glad to be a part of his recognition," said Young about Villegas, who received his second Silver Star, which made Villegas the only current active-duty Airman with two Silver Stars.

"I'm proud to know him, proud to be his friend and extremely proud I got a chance to work with him," Young said. "He taught me a lot of what I know. That made it extra special to me."

Villegas, who was Young's first operational supervisor after Young had completed the combat control training pipeline, was thinking the same thing.

"I was extremely honored and extremely proud to be up there next to him," Villegas said.

"The whole time (on stage) I was thinking, 'I'm so proud of him.'"

"I was extremely humbled about (receiving the Silver Star), but to me this was more about Dale," he said. "I was honored to be standing up there next to him, side by side. That's all I could think about."

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR MEDAL TO STAFF SERGEANT DALE C. YOUNG



Staff Sergeant Dale C. Young distinguished himself by heroism as a Combat Control Craftsman, 21st Expeditionary Special Tactics Squadron, Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component, Special Operations Command Central while engaged in ground combat against an enemy of the United States from 19 May 2009 to 23 May 2009. During the period, Sergeant Young served as the primary Combat Control Joint Terminal Attack Controller assigned to an Army Special Forces Team. While conducting Operation SIEGE ENGINE, Sergeant Young's element came under immediate and continuous enemy fire from the moment of infiltration and continued for the next ninety four hours. Taliban insurgents maintained stiff resistance from as close as 150 meters from Sergeant Young's position. During the fighting, the enemy effectively utilized direct small arms fire, rocket propelled

grenades and 107 millimeter rockets. Sergeant Young assumed great risk as he controlled up to eleven coalition aircraft and ensured safe and effective fires were placed on the enemy positions, while he simultaneously mitigated collateral damage. In fact on numerous occasions enemy small arms and rocket fire impacted within ten meters of Sergeant Young's position. Sergeant Young's calm demeanor under fire, leadership in the face of grave danger and ability to simultaneously conduct precision attacks utilizing all forms of coalition aircraft in the chaotic environment, undoubtedly saved the lives of numerous personnel and ensured the destruction of a black tar opium cache valued at more than one billion dollars. The exemplary leadership, personal endeavor and devotion duty displayed by Sergeant Young in this responsible position reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.



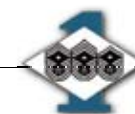
CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR MEDAL (FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER) TO ISMAEL VILLEGAS

Technical Sergeant Ismael Villegas distinguished himself by gallantry in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States near the Helmand Province, Afghanistan from 6 February 2011 to 24 February 2011. During this period, Sergeant Villegas selflessly and repeatedly risked his life during nonstop enemy engagements. When a friendly element was pinned down by hostile fire, Sergeant Villegas, with total disregard for his own personal safety, ran towards the vulnerable troops to gather intelligence on the insurgent fortified positions. Totally exposed to the barrage of enemy fire, he decisively utilized overhead unmanned aerial vehicles and fixed wing close air support to decimate the hostiles delivering a 14,000 pound bombardment. Sergeant Villegas volunteered for a patrol to conduct sensitive site exploitation where his element encountered another hostile assault of recoilless rifle and machine gun rounds impacting within feet of their position. After a Special Forces

teammate directly beside him was struck by rocket propelled grenade shrapnel he laid down covering fire and moved to the wounded warrior completely exposing himself to the heavy enemy fire. Sergeant Villegas pulled his teammate behind a wall and placed himself between the adversary and his team as he provided additional cover fire. He controlled fixed wing close air support within 60 meters and danger close to friendly positions in order to disrupt the onslaught long enough for Sergeant Villegas and the rest of the patrol to fight their way out of the kill zone. Over the 18 day mission, riddled with ferocious trench warfare battles Sergeant Villegas controlled 40 aircraft, delivering over 32,500 pounds of precision ordnance, resulting in 21 enemy confirmed killed in action and destroyed eight fighting positions and two communication repeaters. By his gallantry and devotion to duty, Sergeant Villegas has reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.



DIAMOND SHARP



Airman 1st Class Brittany Andrews
Unit: 59th Medical Logistics & Readiness Squadron
Duty title: Acquisitions
Time in service: 1 year, 8 months
Hometown: Waco, Texas



"Airman First Class Andrews deserves the Diamond Sharp award for her demonstrated dedication to the mission, community support, and leadership. She works with customer service to resolve any issues, tracking, and ensures the customer gets what they need to crank their mission. Her dedication to supporting the community was displayed when she helped care for homeless animals at the San Antonio Humane Society. Her sense of leadership shined during the 'Color Me Rad' 5k in which she led a 10 member team. She is currently submitting an officer package for the LEAD program and is truly leading the way for other Airmen to follow."

- Master Sgt Tory D. Noggie

First Sergeant, 59th Medical Support Group,

Staff Sgt. Tara Lynn Zbikowski
Unit: 802nd Force Support Squadron, Joint Base San Antonio Airman Leadership School
Duty title: Airman Leadership School Instructor
Time in service: 11 years
Hometown: Clifton, N.J.



"Staff Sgt. Tara Zbikowski serves as an Instructor for Joint Base San Antonio Airman Leadership School. Her high enthusiasm is something that everyone notices when meeting her. She displays the highest standards of dress and appearance and military bearing. She's served as the emcee for two Joint Base San Antonio Airman Leadership School graduations and is lauded by leadership every time for her professionalism. In addition, she serves on the 802nd Force Support Squadron dormitory inspection committee using her keen attention to detail to help ensure that our Airmen are in compliance with Air Force standards and to also ensure they are provided with healthy and safe living conditions. Zbikowski manages several key programs for the Airman Leadership School. As the lead survey program manager, she was instrumental in dissecting the new material and making sure feedback was provided to HQ College for Enlisted Professional Military Education. She is also very fiscal minded as the sole government purchase card holder, managing the school's \$30,000 annual budget. Her innovation led to her co-chairing the \$2.5 million school renovation devising civil engineering's construction plan. It is for these reasons and the scope of her impact that Zbikowski is truly 'Diamond Sharp.'"

- Master Sgt. Timothy Petch

First Sergeant, 802d Force Support Squadron

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Silvis
Unit: 343rd Training Squadron
Duty title: Military Training Leader
Time in service: 10 years, 5 months
Hometown: Oceanside, Calif.



"Staff Sgt Jonathan Silvis is an outstanding Military Training Leader in the 343rd Training Squadron. He is responsible for developing, mentoring, and relocating more than 200 non-prior service Airmen, just this month. In addition to his daily duties, Silvis' professionalism and attention to detail has enabled him to successfully lead the squadron's 20-Airman Drill Team through three 37th TRG drill competitions. Silvis motivated and focused his team by leading 2.5 hrs of daily, post-training, practices in the two months leading up to the competition. These practices were critical for perfecting the team's routines and enhancing their discipline. The commitment is worth it to this leader and his team; their hard work paid dividends when they swept the competition; 1st Place Open Ranks, 1st Place Regulation Drill, 1st Place Exhibition Drill, 1st Place Overall. Furthermore, Silvis' works with the 802nd Force Support Squadron to forge stronger Air Force family bonds by promoting and motivating Airmen to attend the monthly birthday meal celebration; over 50 343rd Airmen attended this month. According to his Airmen, Silvis is a professional, hard working MTL, who always gets the job done. His leadership agrees, he hits the ground running each day and succeeds every time."

- Master Sgt. Carol A. Holmes

First Sergeant, HQ AFSFC 343rd TRS

Senior Airman Adrian Wilson
Unit: 802nd Communications Squadron
Duty title: Cable Maintenance Technician
Time in service: 2 years, 8 months
Hometown: San Diego



"Senior Airman Wilson, cable maintenance technician from the 802nd Communications Squadron, is a consummate professional. He has been a rock-steady "Go-to" communications warrior. He completed a vital 900-pair copper cable upgrade. This highly visible cable upgrade supported Basic Military Training sexual assault phone install, providing a quick avenue for help for 35,000 Basic Military Trainees annually.

Recently, Senior Airman Wilson participated in the 802nd Communications Squadron booster club fundraiser that supported the Joint Base San Antonio Wounded Warrior program. This event raised more than \$700 supporting Wounded Warriors and their families. He boosted base and community ties that led to an overall success. His professionalism and positive attitude demonstrated all three Air Force Core Values: Integrity First, Service before Self, and Excellence in All We Do, which makes him the Diamond Sharp Airman this month."

- Master Sgt Melvin Jackson Jr.

First Sergeant, 802nd Communications Squadron

Airman 1st Class Jeanette Marie Castillo
Unit: 59th Clinical Research Division
Duty title: 59th CRD Education and Training Manager
Time in service: 2 years 6 months
Hometown: Bakersfield, Calif.



"Airman 1st Class Jeannette Castillo consistently exemplifies our Air Force core value's. She's a model Airman and rising superstar. Every time I've asked for her assistance, she does not hesitate to step up and always gives a 110 percent, regardless of the task."

- Senior Master Sgt. Joe San Nicolas

First Sergeant, 59th Clinical Support Group

Tech. Sgt Jennifer L. Chiles
Unit: Headquarters Air Force Security Forces Center
Duty title: Action Officer, Inmate Management
Time in service: 14 yrs
Hometown: Compton, Calif.



"Tech Sgt. Jennifer Chiles' professionalism and dedication to the mission exceeds every expectation. As an action officer assigned to HQ Air Force Security Forces Center, Corrections Division, Chiles coordinated with fifteen Air Force installations and processed a total of 22 discharges and gains, expeditiously allowing these units to replenish their lost manpower in a timely fashion. As the center's Defender Association vice president, she planned an upcoming 2013 summer bash, organized two taco sale fundraisers that generated more than \$150 and allocated funds for gifts recognizing five departing members. Despite the rigorous operations tempo in her section, she managed to complete six semester hours towards her Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management. In addition to her dedication to the Air Force mission, she volunteered at Langley Elementary School by supporting the student promotion ceremony. She was the point person for decorating the school auditorium and ushering five fifth grade classes throughout the ceremony, ultimately ensuring a spectacular event for more than 200 parents and students. Finally, she volunteered to conduct a runner's improvement class for 25 Air Force Legal Operations Agency personnel. Chiles routinely exceeds all expectations and sets the example for her peers and superiors."

- Master Sgt. Joshua Olearnek

First Sergeant, HQ AFSFC

DIAMOND SHARP

DIAMOND SHARP continued from Page 13

Senior Airman Ashley Barton
Unit: 318th Information Operations Group
Duty title: Client Systems Technician
Time in service: 2 years
Hometown: Laughlin, Nev.



"Senior Airman Barton's professionalism, can-do attitude, and dedication to duty set the example for her peers across the 688th Information Operations Wing. Not only is she worthy of receiving this recognition but she has shown herself to be a shining example of the Airmen we need to look to in leading us into the future of our Air Force. Her display of the Air Force core values has done nothing but impress all she comes in contact with resulting in her submission and selection for promotion to senior airman below the zone."

- **Master Sgt Nicole M. Basnight**
First Sergeant, 318th IOG

Staff Sgt. Lalaine Smith
Unit: Cryptologic Systems Division
Duty title: NCO in Charge, Command Section
Time in service: 5 years, 11 months
Hometown: San Diego, Calif.



"Staff Sgt. Lalaine Smith's professionalism and motivation has made a long lasting impact to the Cryptologic System Division. Upon taking over as the NCOIC of the command section she completed a top-to-bottom review of all associated administrative programs and instituted numerous changes to improve operations. In her short five months on the job, Smith is directly responsible for improving enlisted performance report and Decoration on-time rates from 68 to 100 percent. Additionally, she completely overhauled the organizations unit personnel manpower record, modified administrative "how to" guides, oversaw a very successful awards program and coordinated 147 error free pieces of correspondence. Smith's impact is not just felt on the job. She volunteers at a local food bank and is a mentor to the Airman's Council. She is also actively advancing her education, earning 10 semester hours toward her degree this quarter alone."

- **Master Sgt. Lawrence M. Snyder**
First Sergeant, AFLCMC/Det 6

Staff Sgt. Lauren Miller
Unit: AFMOA/SGAI
Duty title: Operations Controller, Medical Enterprise Service Desk
Time in service: 6 years, 6 months
Hometown: Salisbury, Md.



"Staff Sgt Miller is an exceptional leader who has made an incredible impact to the Air Force Medical Operations Agency, JBSA-Lackland and the surrounding community. She recently guided the entire Air Force District of Washington major command's transition to the MESD, which bolstered information technology services to more than 2,000 users by yielding a 24/7 response desk and saving the Air Force Medical Service \$40,000 in the first month! She also led a five person shift that expedited closure of 7,000 helpdesk tickets, re-allocated 320 man-hours, and garnered an 80 percent first call resolution rate which is 20 percent above the standard. Miller did this while completing six semester hours toward her Information Systems BS degree, maintaining a 3.5 GPA. Additionally, she orchestrated the Rising 6 that rallied six units with more than 60 members to network and create leadership/mentorship opportunities across the base."

- **Master Sgt. Sara A. Grangroth**
First Sergeant, AFMOA



NEXT WEEK IN THE TALESPINNER:

LACKLAND ISD BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY LISTS

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by Mike Joseph, JBSA-Lackland Public Affairs

SATURDAY

PARKING LOT FLEA MARKET

A flea market in the Warhawk Fitness Center parking lot is Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon.

Vendor spots are \$10 or \$15 with table.

Call the Skylark Community Center at 671-3191 to register or for additional information.

AUG. 9

AAFES CUTEST KIDDO CONTEST

Entries continue through Aug. 9 for the Army & Air Force Exchange Services' online "Color Me' Cutest Kiddo" contest.

Exchange patrons worldwide can post photographs of their children holding a completed coloring page to the Exchange Facebook page. Contestants can choose one of four coloring pages, along with rules and regulations, online at www.shopmyexchange.com/Community/PatriotFamily/.

The randomly chosen grand prize winner will be awarded a seven-night resort stay and an \$800 gift card.

An additional \$5,000 in gift cards will be divided among first-, second-, third- and fourth-place winners in each age category, who will be selected by an online poll Aug. 19-23, of the Top 10 artists as selected by a panel of judges. Winners of the contest will be announced after Aug. 30.

AUG. 14

PARENTING ORDER LEGAL CLINIC

The 802nd Mission Support Group Judge Advocate and the Office of the Attorney General of Texas Child Support Division will host a free parenting order legal clinic for military parents Aug. 14, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

The clinics are for military parents who have questions about their legal rights as parents, problems seeing or locating their children, changing their visitation plan, etc.

Family law attorneys and representatives from the Office of the Attorney General of Texas will be available to discuss common questions and concerns.

For additional information, contact the Lackland Legal Assistance Office at 671-3363.

AUG. 20

HOME BUYERS' SEMINAR

A home buyers' seminar is Aug. 20, 1:30-3:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Room at Freedom Chapel.

Seminar topics include how to apply for a loan; loan criteria and the purchase process; how to choose the right home and a broker-real estate agent; and frequently asked questions for first-time home buyers.

For reservations and additional information, contact Elvira Martinez at 210-375-5149.

CUSTOMER SUPPLY TRAINING

The 802nd Logistics Readiness Squadron's Equipment Accountability Element conducts three classes on the third Tuesday each month in the second floor conference room of Building 5160.

The Aug. 20 classes and start times are: Block I General Supply Training, 8 a.m.; Block II Bench Stock Training, 8:45 a.m.; and Block III Equipment Custodian Supplemental/Refresher Training, 9:30 a.m.

For additional information or to register, contact Ray Holland or Eugene Owens at 925-1140 or 671-3801.

AUG. 28

RETIRED ENLISTED ASSOCIATION MEETING

Retired Enlisted Association Chapter 80 meetings are held at the Gateway Club every fourth Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m.

For details, call 658-2344.

INFORMATIONAL

LACKLAND THRIFT SHOP CLOSURE

The Lackland Thrift Shop is closed for the month of July, and will reopen Aug. 6.

For additional information, call 671-3608 or visit <http://www.lacklandosc.org>.

802ND LRS CUSTOMER SERVICE

The 802nd Logistics Readiness Squadron Customer Service is the primary focal point for all supply-related questions, concerns, complaints, Zero Overpricing Program and Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office transactions.

For details, contact customer service at 210-671-2575/3611/3801, 925-1490/1049/1048, or email 802lrs.customerservice@lackland.af.mil.

37TH TRW MONTHLY PHOTO CONTEST

The 37th Training Wing Public

Affairs Office has started a monthly photo contest with a different theme featured each month.

The August theme is "Absolute Professionalism: It's in the Details" in a photo that interprets the 37th TRW. Winners will be recognized on the 37th TRW web page, and on 37th TRW Facebook and Twitter feeds.

All entries will be displayed on the web and the winners will be chosen by a rotating panel of judges each month.

August submissions must be emailed to 37TRW.PA.INBOX@us.af.mil by close of business Aug. 30.

Entrants must be 37th TRW military, civilian employees, family members, permanent party, students or alumni.

For details, email 37TRW.PA.INBOX@us.af.mil.

FIT BLUE RESEARCH STUDY

Active-duty service members with a Body Mass Index greater than 25 may qualify for the Fit Blue research study, a partnership between the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

For information, call 855-FIT-NOW.

CHAPEL SERVICES

PROTESTANT

Freedom Chapel -Building 1528

<i>Sunday</i>	
Contemporary Service	9:30 a.m.
Religious Education	11 a.m.
Gospel Service	12:30 p.m.
<i>Wednesday</i>	
AWANA	6 p.m.

Hope Chapel -Building 10338

<i>Sunday</i>	
Contemporary Service	11 a.m.
Spanish Service	12:30 p.m.

Airmen Memorial Chapel -Building 5432

<i>Sunday</i>	
Liturgical Service	8 a.m.

DENOMINATIONAL

BMT Reception Center -Building 7246

<i>Sunday</i>	
Church of Christ	7:30 a.m.

Gateway Chapel -Building 6300

<i>Saturday</i>	
Seventh-day Adventist	12:30 p.m.

Education Classroom -Building 5200

Rm. 108

<i>Sunday</i>	
Christian Science	7:30 a.m.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Freedom Chapel -Building 1528

<i>Sunday</i>	
Religious Education	9 a.m.
Mass	11 a.m.
<i>Monday - Friday</i>	
Daily Mass	11:30 a.m.

Hope Chapel -Building 10338

<i>Saturday</i>	
Reconciliation	4:30 p.m.
Mass	5:30 p.m.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN

Airmen Memorial Chapel -Building 5432

<i>Sunday</i>	
Religious Education	8 a.m.

WICCA

BMT Reception Center -Building 7246

<i>Sunday</i>	
Military Open Circle	12:30 p.m.

Freedom Chapel -Building 1528

<i>1st Tuesday</i>	
Military Open Circle	6 p.m.

JEWISH

Airmen Memorial Chapel -Building 5432

<i>Friday</i>	
Sabbath & Kiddush	4 p.m.

Sunday

Religious Education	12:30 p.m.
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ISLAMIC

Global Ministry Center -Building 7452

<i>Friday</i>	
Jummah Prayer	1:15 p.m.

<i>Sunday</i>	
Religious Education	9 a.m.

BMT Reception Center -Building 7246

<i>Sunday</i>	
Buddhist	10 a.m.

Gateway Chapel -Building 6300

<i>First, third and fifth Saturdays</i>	
Eckankar	12:30 p.m.

<i>First, third and fifth Saturdays</i>	
Baha'i	11 a.m.

OTHER FAITH GROUPS

THE CHURCH OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Hope Chapel -Building 10338

<i>Tuesday</i>	
Religious Education	6:30 p.m.

<i>Thursday</i>	
LDS Institute	6:30 p.m.

<i>Sunday</i>	
LDS Service	8 a.m.

JBSA-LACKLAND

KEY FAMILY SUPPORT RESOURCES

Air Force Aid Society	671-3722
Airman & Family Readiness Center	671-3722
Airman's Attic	671-1780
American Red Cross	844-4225
Base Post Office	671-1058
Bowling Center	671-2271
DEERS	800-538-9552
Exceptional Family Member Program	671-3722
Family Child Care	671-3376
Legal Office	671-3362
Library	671-3610
Medical Appointment Line	916-9900
MPF ID Cards	671-6006
Outdoor Recreation	925-5532
TRICARE Info	800-444-5445
Thrift Shop	671-3608

Enlisted Spouses' Club	http://www.lacklandesc.org
Force Support Squadron	http://www.lacklandfss.com
Lackland ISD	http://www.lacklandisd.net
Officers' Spouses' Club	http://www.lacklandosc.org
JBSA Public website	http://www.jbsa.af.mil
My Air Force Life	http://www.MyAirForcelife.com

For more details, contact Freedom Chapel - 671-4208 • Gateway Chapel - 671-2911 • Hope Chapel - 671-2941

Softball champions: 149th Fighter Wing back on top

By Jose T. Garza III
JBSA-Lackland Public Affairs

It had been a long time since the 149th Fighter Wing 'Gunfighters' had attained Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland intramural softball supremacy.

July 24 was the day the Gunfighters rose back to prominence when they defeated the Navy Information Operations Command, 10-8, winning the base softball championship.

The Gunfighters advanced to the championship by defeating the 737th Training Group and the 433rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

As the third best team in the National League, the Gunfighters coach Jesse Rodriguez, a 22-year player on the team, said the team surprised the opposition by making it to the playoffs after a slow start to the regular season. Both work and personal commitments led to the team's early struggles.

The Gunfighters had to search the player's pool to find players available to contribute to the team.

"I think we were struggling to find



Courtesy photo

The members of the 149th Fighter Wing 'Gunfighters' celebrate their victory in the JBSA-Lackland intramural softball championship.

our team chemistry," Rodriguez said. "As a seasoned team, we peaked at the right time to make it into the playoffs and took the championship by surprise.

"We just played one game at a

time, and everyone thought we were the underdogs. We started off slow, but we hung in there and made the playoffs."

One player became a part of his first base softball championship after being

drafted from the player's pool.

Gunfighters third baseman Jason Session said it was a great feeling being part of a championship team.

"They are a great group of guys," Session said. "The team is so special because of the chemistry we have. No player on this squad thinks they are better than the next player.

That unselfishness led the Gunfighters back to a base championship.

"We had our ups and downs, but we continued to give it our all with everybody on the team believing in one another and backing each other up," Rodriguez said.

The team's chemistry will be tested again in the JBSA intramural softball tournament slated to start Aug. 12. The Gunfighters, along with NIOC, will compete against the top teams from JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Randolph.

"We are ready (for the JBSA softball playoffs), and I think we have a good shot at it all because after each game in the base playoffs, we got better," Session said.

10 AIRMAN SCORE 90 PERCENT OR BETTER ON CDC



Courtesy photo

Ten Joint Base San Antonio Airmen were recently recognized by JBSA senior enlisted leaders for receiving scores of 90 percent or better on their Career Development Course end-of-course tests. Pictured from left, front row, are Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Windham, 802nd Mission Support Group Legal Office superintendent; Tech. Sgt. Kelly Blankenship, 802nd MSG/JA (93 percent); Staff Sgt. Matthew Liimaaka, 802nd Security Forces Squadron (94 percent); Staff Sgt. Matthew Giacona, 802nd Civil Engineer Squadron (92 percent); Staff Sgt. David Deters, 802nd SFS (93 percent); and Staff Sgt. Chase Valmoja, 802nd SFS (97 percent). In the back row, from left, are Chief Master Sgt. Billy Humphrey, 802nd Comptroller Squadron command chief; Staff Sgt. Jordan Hermes, 802nd SFS (91 percent); Airman 1st Class Brett Olsen, 902nd CES (95 percent); Master Sgt. Jeffrey Martin, 902nd MSG superintendent; Tech. Sgt. Cornelius Horne, 902nd CES (95 percent); Staff Sgt. Ronald Farris, 802nd Contracting Squadron (91 percent); Senior Master Sgt. Wayne Mobley, 502nd CPTS superintendent; 502nd MSG Command Sgt. Maj. Bryan Witzel; and Chief Master Sgt. Jose LugoSantiago, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA command chief. Not pictured is Senior Airman David McCune, 802nd SFS (91 percent).

Save money with ITT

By Senior Airman Lynsie Nichols
JBSA-Lackland Public Affairs

Are you planning an upcoming vacation, or maybe just a visit to your local movie theater or theme park?

Let the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Information Tickets and Travel office help.

With the beginning of the school year just around the corner, many people are scrambling to get the most out of their remaining summer vacation and the ITT office strives to offer lower prices than standard admission to more than 20 attractions around the San Antonio area as well as select nationwide attractions.

The ITT office, located in the Arnold Hall Community Center, is open year round and offers discount services to anyone who has a military ID, which includes all active duty, DoD civilian, contractors or dependents.

"Our discounts are larger than the

gate price," Sherry Booher, Lackland ITT manager, said. "Plus there is no sales tax."

The ITT office offers discounts at local theaters, water parks and theme parks. They also offer discounts for downtown attractions and the Riverwalk.

Aside from offering local discounts, the ITT office offers ticket discounts at various attractions throughout the U.S., like Disney World and Universal Studios. They also offer travel packages that can help you plan an overseas vacation to include airfare, hotels and transportation.

ITT offices are available at Ft. Sam Houston and Randolph locations as well.

To learn more about the Lackland ITT office and the discount services they provide, visit their website at www.lacklandfss.com.

(No federal endorsement is intended, prices and availabilities differ by location.)